

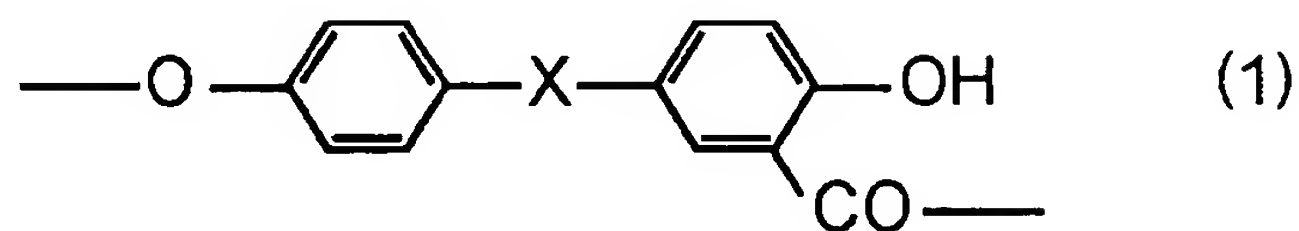
### REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Boykin for the helpful discussion on November 23, 2005. During this discussion it was noted that the structural units of the claimed aromatic polycarbonate are different from the units of formulae (I) and (II) in EP 0736561. In addition, the claimed amounts of the structural units and the viscosity average molecular weight of the claimed polycarbonate are not disclosed or suggested in EP 0736561.

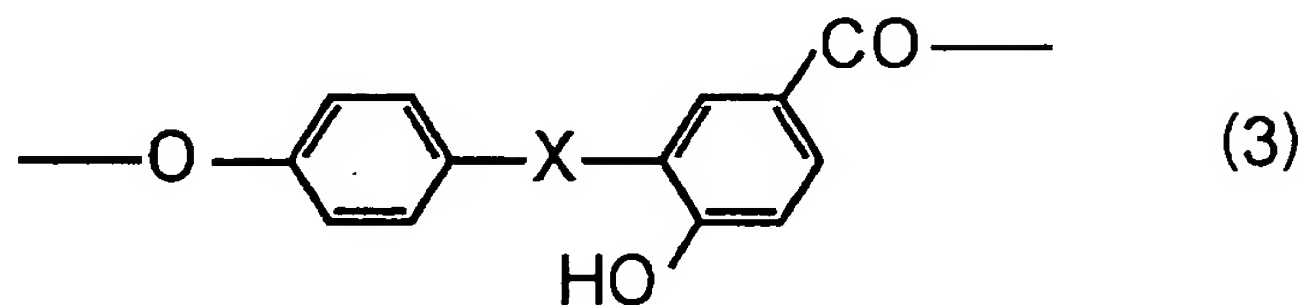
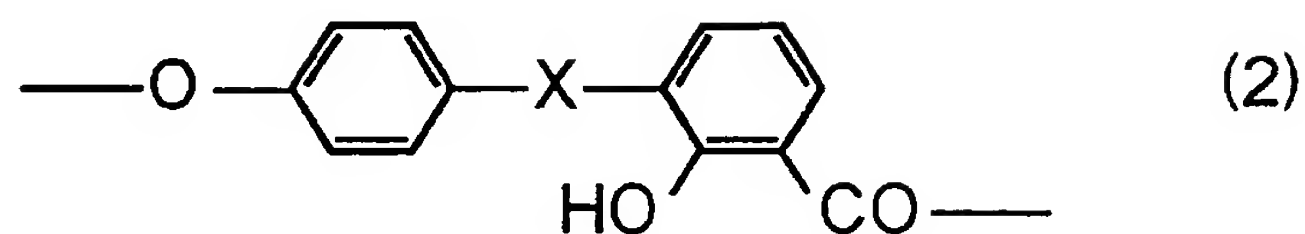
Claims 1, 3-49 are active in this application.

JP 2003-026913 published on January 29, 2003, after the effective US filing date of the present invention which is January 31, 2002. Thus, JP 2003-026913 does not qualify as prior art and the rejection over this reference should be withdrawn. In addition, Applicants submit herewith a Certified English Translation of the priority document of the present invention, JP-2001-29951, filed February 6, 2001, thereby perfecting their claim to priority.

The present invention as set forth in **Claim 1** relates to a branched aromatic polycarbonate produced by transesterification and having a viscosity average molecular weight of at least 16,000, wherein the amount of structural units of the following formula (1) contained in its main chain is within a range of from 2,000 to 50,000 wtpm, and the amounts of structural units of the following formulae (2) and (3) contained in its main chain are within a range of from 30 to 10,000 wtpm, respectively:

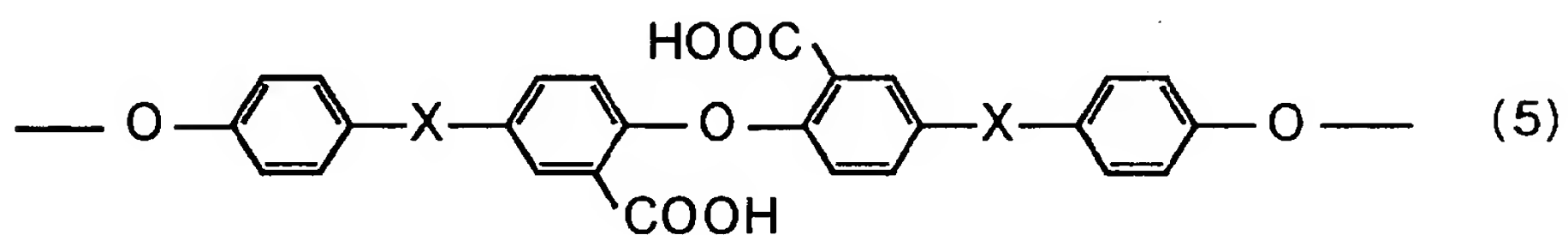
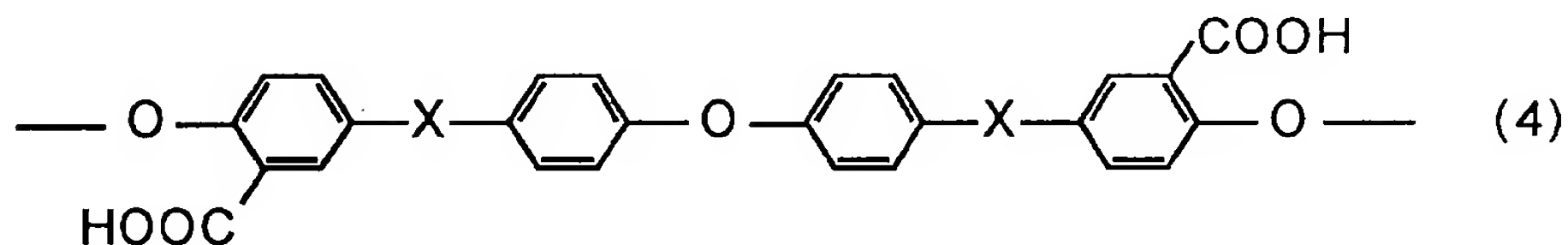


wherein X is a single bond, a C<sub>1-8</sub> alkylene group, a C<sub>2-8</sub> alkylidene group, a C<sub>5-15</sub> cycloalkylene group, a C<sub>5-15</sub> cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by -O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and -SO<sub>2</sub>-,



wherein X is a single bond, a C<sub>1-8</sub> alkylene group, a C<sub>2-8</sub> alkylidene group, a C<sub>5-15</sub> cycloalkylene group, a C<sub>5-15</sub> cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by -O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and -SO<sub>2</sub>-;

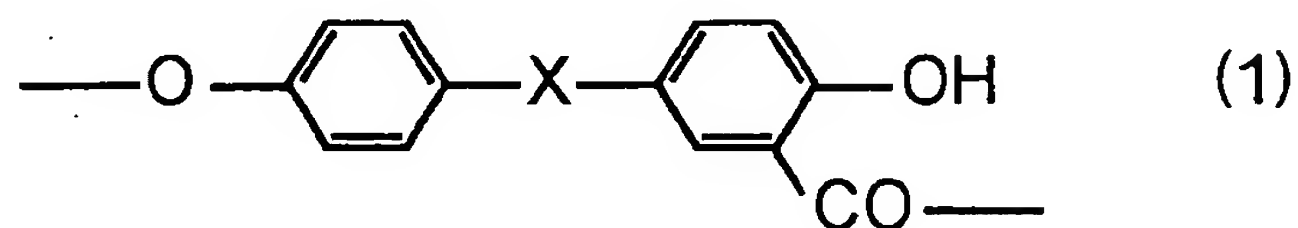
wherein the total amount of structural units of the following formulae (4) and (5) contained in its main chain is within a range of from 10 to 10,000 wtpm:



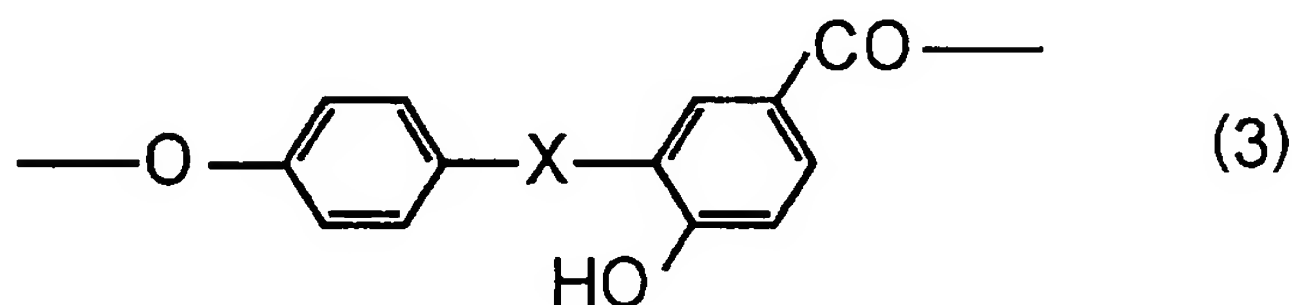
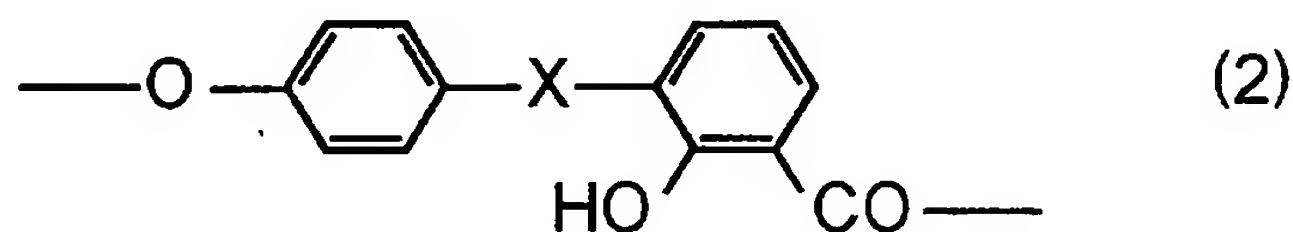
wherein X is a single bond, a C<sub>1-8</sub> alkylene group, a C<sub>2-8</sub> alkylidene group, a C<sub>5-15</sub> cycloalkylene group, a C<sub>5-15</sub> cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by -O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and -SO<sub>2</sub>-.

The present invention as set forth in **Claim 14** relates to a branched aromatic polycarbonate produced by transesterification and having a viscosity average molecular weight of at least 16,000, wherein the amount of structural units of the following formula (1)

contained in its main chain is within a range of from 3,000 to 10,000 wtpm, and the amounts of structural units of the following formulae (2) and (3) contained in its main chain are within a range of from 30 to 10,000 wtpm, respectively:



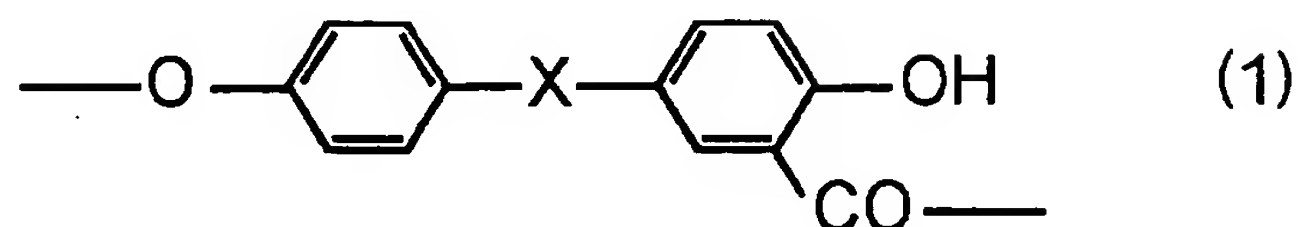
wherein X is a single bond, a C<sub>1-8</sub> alkylene group, a C<sub>2-8</sub> alkylidene group, a C<sub>5-15</sub> cycloalkylene group, a C<sub>5-15</sub> cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by -O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and -SO<sub>2</sub>-,



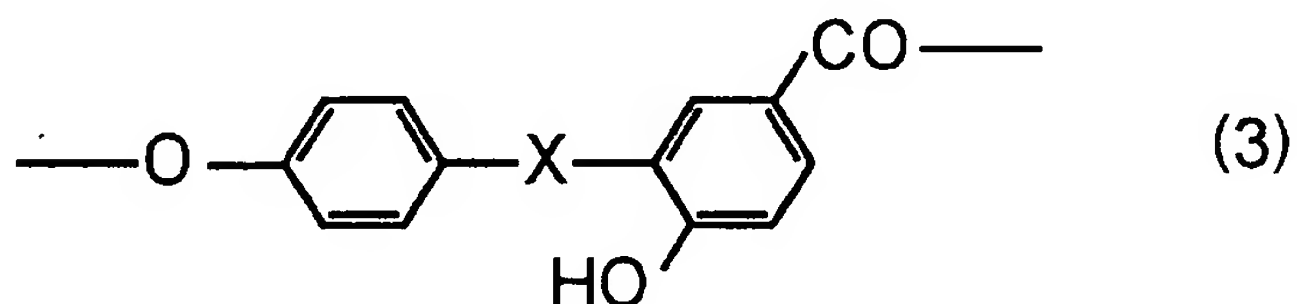
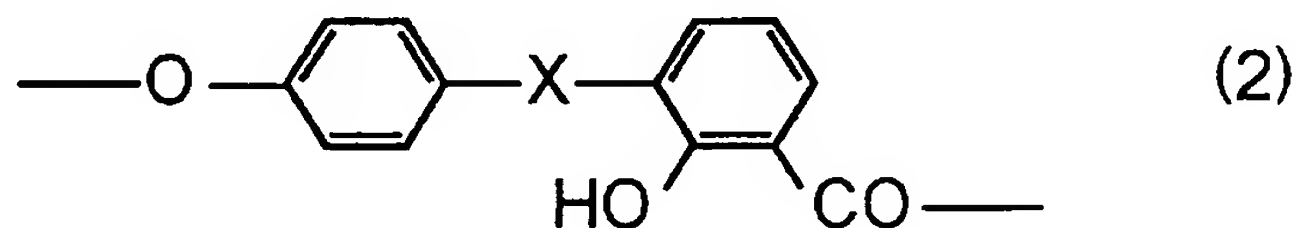
wherein X is a single bond, a C<sub>1-8</sub> alkylene group, a C<sub>2-8</sub> alkylidene group, a C<sub>5-15</sub> cycloalkylene group, a C<sub>5-15</sub> cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by -O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and -SO<sub>2</sub>-.

The present invention as set forth in **Claim 26** relates to a branched aromatic polycarbonate produced by transesterification and having a viscosity average molecular weight of at least 16,000, wherein the amount of structural units of the following formula (1) contained in its main chain is within a range of from 2,000 to 50,000 wtpm, and the amounts

of structural units of the following formulae (2) and (3) contained in its main chain are within a range of from 30 to 5,000 wtpm, respectively:

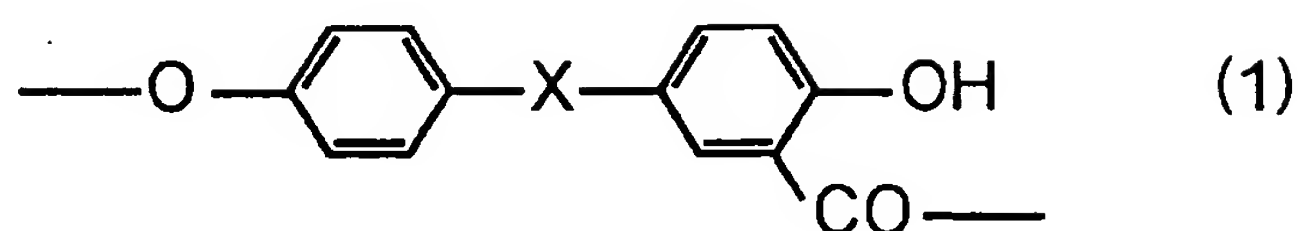


wherein X is a single bond, a C<sub>1-8</sub> alkylene group, a C<sub>2-8</sub> alkylidene group, a C<sub>5-15</sub> cycloalkylene group, a C<sub>5-15</sub> cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by -O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and -SO<sub>2</sub>-,

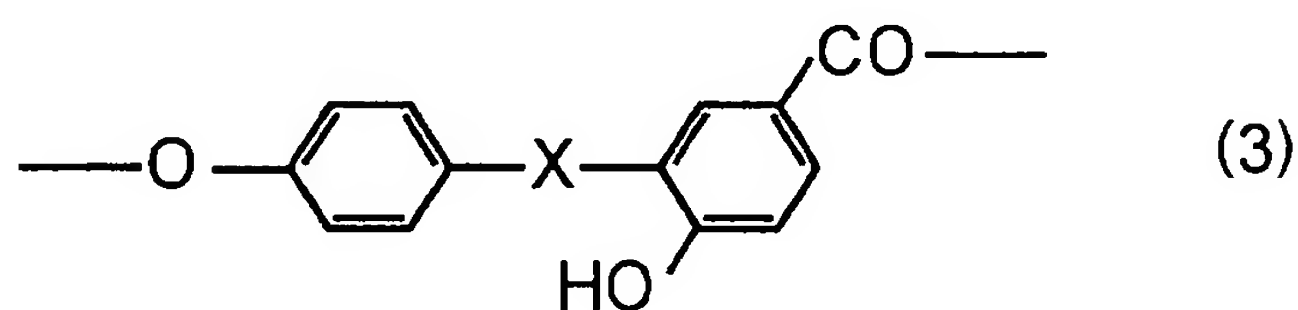
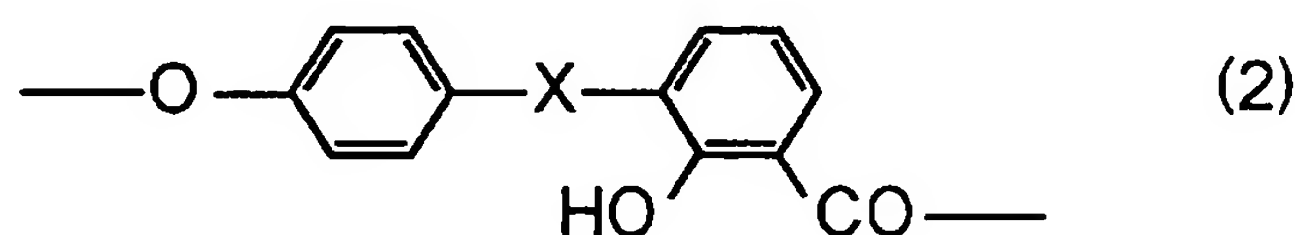


wherein X is a single bond, a C<sub>1-8</sub> alkylene group, a C<sub>2-8</sub> alkylidene group, a C<sub>5-15</sub> cycloalkylene group, a C<sub>5-15</sub> cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by -O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and -SO<sub>2</sub>-.

**Claim 38** relates to a branched aromatic polycarbonate produced by transesterification and having a viscosity average molecular weight of at least 18,000, wherein the amount of structural units of the following formula (1) contained in its main chain is within a range of from 2,000 to 50,000 wtpm, and the amounts of structural units of the following formulae (2) and (3) contained in its main chain are within a range of from 30 to 10,000 wtpm, respectively:



wherein X is a single bond, a C<sub>1-8</sub> alkylene group, a C<sub>2-8</sub> alkylidene group, a C<sub>5-15</sub> cycloalkylene group, a C<sub>5-15</sub> cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by -O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and -SO<sub>2</sub>-,



wherein X is a single bond, a C<sub>1-8</sub> alkylene group, a C<sub>2-8</sub> alkylidene group, a C<sub>5-15</sub> cycloalkylene group, a C<sub>5-15</sub> cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by -O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and -SO<sub>2</sub>-.

EP 0736561 discloses a dihydroxy compound mixture of compounds of formulae (I) and (II) that can be used to make polymers. See the abstract and page 2, last paragraph, page 3, lines 33-46 and page 5, lines 3-17. Note that in EP 0736561, in the positions next to the OH group, there is either a hydrogen group or the X group and there is no carbonyl group. Notably, R<sup>a</sup> and R<sup>b</sup> of formulae (I) or (II) can be halogen atoms or monovalent hydrocarbon groups, but not carbonyl groups.

However, the structural units (1), (2) and (3) of the claimed branched polycarbonate of the present invention have defined positions for the OH and the CO groups on one of the

phenyl rings. These positions are not disclosed or suggested in EP 0736561. Thus, the structural units of formulae (I) and (II) of EP 0736561 are different from the claimed structural units of formulae (1), (2) and (3).

In addition, the claimed amounts of the structural units and the viscosity average molecular weight of the claimed polycarbonate are not disclosed or suggested in EP 0736561.

Therefore, the rejection of Claims 1, 3-49 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by EP 0736561 is believed to be unsustainable as the present invention is neither anticipated nor obvious and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

This application presents allowable subject matter, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass it to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the claims or otherwise wish to discuss this case, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed representative, who would be happy to provide any assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.

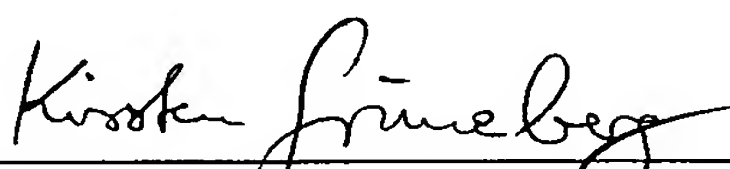
Respectfully submitted,

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